



PATENT
ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. 040894-7418

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:

Hiroshi Sato

Application No. 10/571,070

Filed: March 8, 2006

For: CONNECTED STAPLE

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) Confirmation No.: 2394
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) Group Art Unit: 3677
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) Examiner: G. W. Estremsky
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) Mail Stop RCE
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Commissioner for Patents
U.S. Patent and Trademark Office
Mail Stop RCE
Alexandria, VA 22314

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(b)

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.56 and 1.97(b), Applicant respectfully brings to the attention of the Examiner and the United States Patent Office the documents listed on the attached PTO Form 1449. This Information Disclosure Statement is being filed concurrently with a Request for Continued Examination.

The listed documents were cited in an Office Action for Japanese Patent Application No. 2003-348084, a corresponding foreign application. Copies of the Japanese Office Action and an English-language translation entitled "Decision of Rejection" are enclosed. Copies of the non-U.S. patent documents are enclosed.

Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner consider the listed documents and evidence that consideration by making appropriate notations on the attached form.

This submission does not represent that a search has been made or that no better art exists and does not constitute an admission that the listed documents are material or constitute "prior art." If it should be determined that the listed documents do not constitute "prior art" under United States law, Applicant reserves the right to present to the Office the relevant facts and law regarding the appropriate status of such documents.

Applicant further reserves the right to take appropriate action to establish the patentability of the disclosed invention over the listed documents, should any of the documents be applied against the claims of the present application.

EXCEPT for issue fees payable under 37 C.F.R. § 1.18, the Commissioner is hereby authorized by this paper to charge any additional fees during the entire pendency of this application including fees due under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 and 1.17 which may be required, including any required extension of time fees, or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account

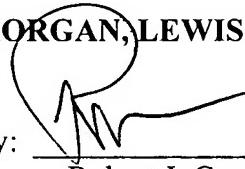
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No. 50-0310. This paragraph is intended to be a **CONSTRUCTIVE PETITION FOR EXTENSION OF TIME** in accordance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.136(a)(3).

Respectfully submitted,

MORGAN, LEWIS & BOCKIUS LLP

By:



Robert J. Goodell
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Date: March 25, 2009

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